

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Nicholas G. Garaufis  
United States District Court  
Eastern District of New York  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201



Re: *Batalla Vidal, et al. v. Baran, et al.*, No. 1:16-cv-04756-NGG-JO

Consent Motion for Leave to File Brief of Individual Historians and the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality as *Amici Curiae*

Dear Judge Garaufis:

The Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic at Seattle University of Law serves as counsel to Individual Historians and proposed *amici curiae* Individual Historians and the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality (“Korematsu Center”). I respectfully submit this letter to seek this Court’s leave to file an amicus brief in support of Plaintiffs’ motions for preliminary injunction in each of the above-captioned parallel cases.<sup>1</sup>

Individual *amici* are academics trained in the field of history who study, teach, and write about United States history. *Amici* are keenly aware of the role that discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, and nationality has played in this nation’s history. *Amici* have a special interest in ensuring that the Court has the benefit of their expertise when it draws its conclusions with regard to the role that animus may have played in the decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality (“Korematsu Center”) is a non-profit organization based at the Seattle University School of Law.<sup>2</sup> The Korematsu Center works to advance justice through research, advocacy, and education. Inspired by the legacy of Fred Korematsu, who defied military orders during World War II that ultimately led to the unlawful incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans, the Korematsu Center works to advance social justice for all. The Korematsu Center has a special interest in addressing government action targeted at classes of persons based on race, nationality, or religion.

The purpose of proposed *amici*’s brief is to assist the court in analyzing whether Plaintiffs’ equal protection claim, Dkt. 113 at 43 (Fifth Claim for Relief), merits preliminary injunctive relief, and more specifically in assessing the proper weight to be given to the Declaration of Dr. Stephen Pitti. *Amici* historians and the Korematsu Center will demonstrate that racial animus can be discerned by a code word analysis, and that such an analysis is a widely accepted

<sup>1</sup> Proposed *amici* respectfully submit this letter motion under Section II.A. of Your Honor’s Individual Rules, which requires communications with chambers to be by letter, and because Section III.A, Civil Motions, does not address the instant motion. In the alternative, proposed *amici* request a pre-motion conference to authorize leave to file such a brief, pursuant to Rule III.A of Your Honor’s Individual Rules.

<sup>2</sup> The Korematsu Center does not, in this brief or otherwise, represent the official views of Seattle University.

**FRED T. KOREMATSU CENTER FOR LAW & EQUALITY**

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methodology in the field of history. Further, *amici* will present a survey of federal circuit courts demonstrating that code word analysis has been adopted into legal frameworks as providing important direct and circumstantial evidence supporting a showing of animus or discriminatory intent. Due to the special interest that the proposed *amici* have in addressing government action toward persons based on race and/or nationality, the proposed *amici* offer an important perspective on the merits of Plaintiffs' equal protection claim.

"District courts have broad discretion in deciding whether to accept amicus briefs." *In re HSBC Bank, USA, N.A., Debit Card Overdraft Fee Litig.*, 14 F. Supp. 3d 99, 103 (E.D.N.Y. 2014) (citation omitted). "An amicus brief should normally be allowed when...the amicus has unique information or perspective that can help the court beyond the help that the lawyers for the parties are able to provide." *Citizens Against Casino Gambling in Erie Cty. v. Kempthorne*, 471 F. Supp. 2d 295, 311 (W.D.N.Y. 2011) (citation omitted).

For the foregoing reasons, prospective *amici* respectfully request permission to file an amicus brief on or before December 22, 2017, or in the alternative, a pre-motion conference concerning leave to file the brief.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Robert S. Chang

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CC: All Counsel of Record (VIA ECF)